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CONTENTS:

Slosson—Collecting on Mt. Washington	249	Daggett—Grasshoppers at Duluth, M.	263
J. B. S.—The meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists....	252	Rowley—Movements of pupæ and activity of imagos.....	264
Dyar—Larva of <i>Notodonta stragula</i>	255	Editorial.....	266
J. B. S.—Economic Entomology at the World's Fair	257	Notes and News.....	267
Foulks—Local list of <i>Catocala</i>	261	Entomological Literature.....	270
Dyar—Differences between the larvæ of <i>C. bilineata</i> and <i>H. manteo</i>	262	Entomological Section.....	278
		Ashmead—A new species of <i>Torymus</i> ..	278
		Watson—The female of <i>Pap. elwesii</i>	279

COLLECTING ON MT. WASHINGTON.—Part I.

By ANNIE TRUMBULL SLOSSON.

I went up the mountain for the first time this season in the afternoon of July 7th. The day had been hot and still below and even on the summit the sunshine had been bright and warm and there had been little wind. As soon as we left the cars I went at once to my old hunting ground, the warm wooden front of the Summit House. This is painted white, and on a clear day has the sunshine upon it from morning till late afternoon. And on the warm white surface, insects of all orders collect, setting and remaining and easily taken. Here I once found and captured, on July 4th, three or four years ago, at the close of a warm bright day, twelve specimens of *Alypia langtonii*. These were resting, not far apart, on the front of the house and formed a sort of Sorosis or Woman's Club, for they were all females with the one white spot on secondaries. I felt sure of a good catch now, and was not disappointed. There were so many insects either in full view or hidden away under the projecting clapboards that I was kept busy for some minutes, and literally had my hands

full. I was not without aid however. I had with me a quick-eyed and quick-fingered friend, and a stranger seeing us at work offered his assistance, and proved a useful ally. Of course he proved to be a naturalist, a botanist from Boston, an enthusiast as to his own specialty, and a sympathising listener to the riders of other hobby horses. In less than half an hour we had taken fifty-nine insects,—Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, Hemiptera and Lepidoptera. Of this last order, my own specialty, we found but one specimen. Oddly enough, this was one of the *Ægeridadae*, *Albuna torva* Hy. Edw. This was first described from specimens taken in "Glen, Mt. Washington, N. H., Vancouver Island and Colorado," by Mr. Henry Edwards, "Papilio" vol. i, p. 189. I have taken several specimens at Franconia.

But it seemed a strange insect to find on the very summit, resting on the side of the house, in perfect condition, not a scale removed from delicate body and fragile wings. The brilliant beetle, *Corymbites resplendens* shone out like an opal from the white background. We took some half dozen of this species at that time, and certainly more than fifty during my stay of a week. It is always plentiful on and near the summit. *Corymbites virens*. *C. hieroglyphica* and *C. cruciatus*, were also taken, and soon I spied that rare cerambycid, *Anthophilax attenuata*, hiding away in the shadow. It was a fine female specimen. I have taken one of the same sex at Franconia several years ago, and another this Summer. I knew that the male was exceedingly rare, and was therefore overjoyed to secure one a few minutes later. Then another male turned up, and soon another female. The next day I found another pair, also near the house, making three good pairs in all, a rare capture. Of Hymenoptera I took three specimens of *Xiphydria provancheri* Cress., one of the Uroceridæ. I have taken it previously on the mountain. There were several Ichneumons, a brilliant little Chrysid and a Bombus. Of Diptera there were several varieties, among them two pairs of the large robber-fly, *Laphria sericea*, and Hemiptera was represented by two or three leaf hoppers.

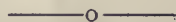
We went in to supper, hungry and happy, bottles were filled with rarities and our heart's with hope. There is no night collecting on the summit. I have been there a great many times in all sorts of weather, but have never seen an insect fly after dark, though I have watched the lights and windows faithfully. But

our evenings at the Summit House are very pleasant ones, especially when, as happened this time, there are several of congenial tastes and pursuits. By a happy chance there were six of us this time, all enthusiasts in our lines. Two were botanists, the Boston one who had aided me, on my arrival, in what might be called my house hunting, and another also from Massachusetts, and just now devoted to the Sphagnaceæ. This last, for lack of a better title, we styled the sphagnotic. Then there were two zoologists at this time looking up certain small rodents with unpronounceable names. These last scattered their little wire traps all over the grand old mountain, and so we dubbed them the trappists.

The weather was favorable through most of the week. Of course there was some fog, some wind, and a little rain. But we had intervals of sunshine and clear skies and made use of them, and in that one week, from Friday to Friday, I took about six hundred insects. This far surpasses any record I have ever made here hitherto. But the season had been exceptional, with much warm weather and much less wind than is usual, so I was told. Then I was aided in my collecting by so many willing hands. Every one contributed something. The trappists never went out to set or examine their traps without bringing back some entomological treasure, and the botanists shook out from their tin cases live beetles and bugs they had captured while gathering alpine plants. All the good people of the hotel interested themselves in the matter, and added to my collection hourly. From the managers to the youngest bell-boy all contributed, and even old Med, the grand St. Bernard, sniffed at every fly that buzzed around his massive head and seemed to question its desirability as a specimen. Nearly all my own personal collecting was done upon the very summit, quite near the house. I went once down as far as the "Alpine Garden," but generally spent my day in hunting nearer home. Under stones all over the cone were three or four species of Carabidæ in great numbers. Here I found *Pterostichus vindicatus*, *P. coracinus*, *Amara hyperborea*, a *Patrobis*, probably *rugicollis*, and *Nebria sahlbergii*.

In Austin's list of 1874 he calls *Amara hyperborea* "decidedly the most abundant species under stones." I have never found it so, and this season took but three or four specimens in all. *Pterostichus vindicatus* was far the most plentiful of the species I have spoken of. *Patrobis rugicollis* (?) was also common. This

same species I have also taken at Franconia this Summer. Two of the Byrrhidæ, *B. geminatus* and *B. cyclophorus* (?) were not infrequent under stones near the stables, and with them I found *Cryptohypnus ventriculus* and *C. abbreviatus*. Of course the butterfly *Chionobas semidea* was there in numbers, flying about among the rocks, darting down into dark crevices when pursued, or resting on some gray, lichen-covered stone so like in prevailing tint to its own mottled wings, as to defy detection. Of *Argynnis montinus*, the other and much rarer alpine butterfly, I saw nothing on this first trip. Since the time, three or four years ago, when I was so fortunate as to capture seven specimens during the first week of August, I have never expected to find them at an earlier date.



THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGISTS.

The fifth annual meeting of this Association, held at Madison, Wis., was in some respects the most successful that has been held. In point of attendance it was behind the Washington and Rochester meetings, but in the number and value of the papers presented, it ranks with the best. As the proceedings are to be published in detail in "Insect Life," and an abstract in the "Canadian Entomologist," it will be necessary to give here only a mere outline of what was done, referring to the other publications for further information. The Presidential address by Prof. S. A. Forbes was a thoughtful review of the work that had been accomplished during the past year, and the plea for greater unity of purpose among entomologists.

Two papers were presented by Mr. J. Ritzema Bos, and were read by the Secretary, the writer not being present. M. H. Du Buysson sent a paper on the use of Bisulphide of Carbon for the destruction of insects, principally those infesting furs and Museum specimens. The point of this article was in the description of a water-joint to a box described by him, and in which the specimens to be fumigated were to be placed. An interesting discussion ensued on the uses of Bisulphide of Carbon both as a destroyer of Museum pests, and of field insects. Quite a diversity of results appeared, and it is evident that this substance has not yet